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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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10/686,433

10/14/2003

W. Todd Daniell

030455; 190250-1580

7279

38823

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12/08/2009

AT&T Legal Department - TKHR

Attn: Patent Docketing

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EXAMINER

LAI, MICHAEL C

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2457

MAIL DATE

DELIVERY MODE

12/08/2009

PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/686,433	Applicant(s) DANIELL, W. TODD	
	Examiner MICHAEL C. LAI	Art Unit 2457	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 10/5/2009.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1,2,10,11,18-20 and 25-27 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1,2,10,11,18-20 and 25-27 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>10/10/2009</u> . | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

This office action is responsive to communications filed on 10/5/2009.

Response to Amendment

The examiner has acknowledged the amended claims 26 and 27. The 101 rejection to claims 26 and 27 has been corrected and withdrawn accordingly. Claims 1-2, 10-11, 18-20, and 25-27 are pending.

Response to Arguments

Applicant's arguments, see pages 2-5, filed 8/14/2009, with respect to the rejection(s) of claim(s) 1-2, 10-11, 18-20, and 25-27 under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) have been fully considered and are persuasive. Therefore, the final rejection has been withdrawn. However, upon further consideration, a new ground(s) of rejection is made in view of Friskel (US 6,839,737).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

2. Claims 1-2, 10-11, 18-20, and 25-27 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Friskel (US 6,839,737, hereinafter referred to as Friskel).

Regarding claim 1, Friskel discloses a method for handling digital messages, the method comprising:

determining whether a sender of a received email message is currently present at an Instant Messaging (IM) account [i.e., steps 706, 708] [Fig. 7 and col. 7, lines 31-46];

in response to determining that the sender of the received email message is currently present at an IM account, automatically launching an IM session with the sender [i.e., steps 710, 714] [Fig. 7 and col. 7, lines 47-61].

Regarding claim 2, Friskel further discloses the method of claim 1, wherein determining whether a sender of a received email message is currently present at an IM account includes extracting contact information from the email message, the contact information being associated with the sender of the received email message [i.e., step 706] [col. 7, lines 31-39].

Claims 10-11 are of the same scope as claims 1-2 respectively. They are rejected for the same reason as for claims 1-2 respectively.

Claim 18 is of the same scope as claim 1. It is rejected for the same reason as for claim 1.

Claims 19-20 are of the same scope as claims 1-2 respectively. They are rejected for the same reason as for claims 1-2 respectively.

Claim 25 is of the same scope as claim 1. It is rejected for the same reason as for claim 1.

Claims 26-27 are of the same scope as claims 1-2 respectively. They are rejected for the same reason as for claims 1-2 respectively.

Conclusion

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure:

Appelman et al. (US 6,912,564 B1) discloses a system for instant messaging the sender and recipients of an e-mail message.

Jenniges et al. (US 6,978,136 B2) discloses a method for automatically initiating a chat session between a user and personnel in the customer support department when the controller indicates that the customer support department is available.

Stewart et al. (US 7,317,928 B2) discloses exposing instant messenger presence information on a mobile device.

Examiner's Note: Examiner has cited particular columns and line numbers in the references applied to the claims above for the convenience of the applicant. Although the specified citations are representative of the teachings of the art and are applied to specific limitations within the individual claim, other passages and figures may apply as well. It is respectfully requested from the applicant in preparing responses, to fully consider the references in entirety as potentially teaching all or part of the claimed invention, as well as the context of the passage as taught by the prior art or disclosed by the Examiner.

In the case of amending the claimed invention, Applicant is respectfully requested to indicate the portion(s) of the specification which dictate(s) the structure

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relied on for proper interpretation and also to verify and ascertain the metes and bounds of the claimed invention.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to MICHAEL C. LAI whose telephone number is (571)270-3236. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 8:30 - 5:00 EST.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Ario Etienne can be reached on (571) 272-4001. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

Michael C. Lai
03DEC2009

/YVES DALENCOURT/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 2457